

Cottonwood Heights City
MINUTES OF THE PARKS, TRAILS, AND OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE
February 23, 2022
Virtual ZOOM Meeting / Recorded

Present*: Jennifer Shah; Greg Reid; Erin Davis; Matt Dominesey; Michael Menssen; Paula McFarland; Lyse Durrant, CH Parks & Recreation Service Area (SA) Assistant Director (for Ben Hill); Sarah Ricketts; Chris Owens; Ronna Cohen and Larry Alserda

Management & Staff*: Mike Johnson and Councilmember Doug Peterson

**Unless otherwise noted here, the attendees appeared via ZOOM – Virtual meeting.*

Summary and Key Actions

- Open house on the preliminary general plan is scheduled for March 8th. From 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the City Community Room.
 - Parks donation program is going well. CH Journal/city newsletter ad and articles are, or will be, in the works.
 - Golden Hills Park hammock posts have been ordered and the Mountain View Park pollinator garden design is beginning.
 - Mayor Weichers provided feedback for the committee to consider in 2022.
 - State and Federal legislation impacting Cottonwood Heights (CH) PTOS is upcoming. There may be opportunities for residents to receive reimbursement for water-wise projects.
 - Greg Reid will update the committee goals and Mike Johnson will add an agenda item to discuss in the next committee meeting.
 - The committee will consider preparation of monthly CH Journal/city newsletter articles to highlight ongoing projects in each district. Also, articles will be written to inform residents of completed projects and their respective districts.
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Welcome

Mr. Greg Reid, committee chair called the meeting to order and welcomed Committee members, management, staff, and Ms. Durrant who represented the SA in Ben Hill's absence. Mr. Reid read to the committee a virtual public meeting statement from the Governor's Executive Order.

City staff / Council / Service Area Update

Mike Johnson, CH City Community & Economic Development Director reported on the following:

- On March 8, 2022, the city will host an open house on the new city general plan from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the City Hall Community Room. This is the first of two open houses to be held prior to soliciting public input.

- The advertisement for the park donation program has been prepared and will run in next month's newsletter.
- CH City Geographic Information Systems (GIS) staff participated in the "Maps on the Hill" event at the state capital. The city walking tour maps were very popular and other cities plan to adopt this idea and create similar maps.
- VODA Landscaping was selected and will begin designs for the new pollinator garden at Mountain View Park.
- Three hammock poles have been ordered for Golden Hills Park and will be installed in the southwest corner of the park when received.

CHSA Update - Lyse Durrant, SA Assistant Executive Director

- The SA is getting ready for spring and looking for seasonal staff.
- The Ferguson Park donation program is going well. Dr. Andrew Gagnon donated 5 bike racks on behalf of his family and was tragically killed in a skiing accident shortly thereafter. Mr. Johnson will follow up with the city council about putting his story in the CH Journal/city newsletter when the park is nearing completion. Committee member Shah and others from District 4 crowd-sourced funding for a bench that will honor former Council Member Christine Mikell for her service to the city and creation of this park. So far, there have been nine donations totaling around \$12,000.
- The SA could use the PTOS committee's help on July 31, 2022, for cleanup after Butlerville Days.
- Council member Peterson is getting a lot of feedback on preliminary designs on the Antczak Park upgrades. There is still some question of final amenities and locations within the park. The committee would eventually like to see constructed a walking path that circumnavigates the park and connects adjoining neighborhoods. Ms. Durrant reported that the final design will soon be completed and shared. The plan hasn't changed very much from the original design except for the addition of lighted pickleball courts.

Committee Chair Update

Greg Reid thanked outgoing Committee Chair, Jennifer Shah for her presentation to the city council.

Committee members Greg Reid, Mike Menssen, Paula McFarland, and Jennifer Shah met earlier in the day with new mayor, Mike Weichers. Mayor Weichers received feedback that PTOS projects have been too focused on District 4. Other items discussed were (1) Utah Open Lands coordination, (2) the desire for continued PTOS committee content in the city newsletter, (3) inviting the city lobbyist, Greg Curtis, attend PTOS committee meetings once or twice a year to discuss funding opportunities, (4) respectfully asking PTOS committee members to help get out in front of community concerns regarding potentially contentious PTOS issues; and (5) a focus on connectivity including bike lanes. Ms. Shah suggested that the PTOS committee notifications be included in the Listserve signup options citizens can select for public notifications. She also suggested that CH Journal/city newsletter articles focus on projects across all districts, as well as highlighting major completed projects and the district locations. This should alleviate some resident misperceptions that some districts are favored over others.

Ms. Shah asked about the process for putting a trail next to the East Jordan Canal. Salt Lake City Public Utilities manages the canal. There is a prescriptive easement to not allow encroachment on the canal. Committee member Larry Alserda suggested contacting Laura Briefer, Director Public Utilities; Jessie Stewart, Assistant Director, or Dave Maiorano, Irrigation Supervisor, for further discussion.

Committee Chair Reid shared the 2022 PTOS Committee Goals for discussion. Council member Peterson suggested a goal to keep members of the public informed of committee activities. Also, goals 1 & 2 and 5 & 6 could be combined. Modify Item 10 to make recommendations on the allocation of resources since the committee is not authorized to do it (except for its own budget funds.)

Legislative Update

- Greg Curtis has been tasked with seeking PTOS funding from the legislature.
- New rules are forthcoming on water conservation, planning for new development and land use. Cities must have clear goals for affordable housing and future funding will be tied to this.
- The Midvalley active transportation plan is a six-city cooperative. The CH portion has been presented to the city council and will go back to city council in mid-March for public input. It will be ready for a vote by the beginning of April. If all cities approve the plan, it will provide a continuous system for active transportation between the participating cities.
- Other rules are in process for water conservation and landscaping standards; riparian protection; and pollinator garden funding from the state. Southern Utah University assisted in contacting the Utah Dept. of Agriculture (UDA). The UDA has identified a program coordinator and is working to set up a meeting.
- Mr. Johnson shared a map showing 51 active transportation projects in the works within CH. The map is helpful when soliciting funding for the projects.
- Standards – there is funding available for water-wise projects. Residents are eligible for these programs. Cities must adopt standards for new development so that funding is only for older homes and not new ones. There are strict requirements for the subsidy program. There is a link on the city website and a zoom class on March 8th to teach people about the requirements.

Public Comment

No members of the public were present today.

Website review – please submit any edits to your bio and head shots. There is still one committee opening and Mr. Johnson is interviewing a candidate tomorrow. There are new links on the CH web page to PTOS and recreation within the city. Ms. Durrant will make sure that links to the SA page go both ways.

There was no public attendance or comment at today's committee meeting. Committee action items were reviewed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Reid adjourned the meeting.

Michael Johnson

Date

Greg Reid

Date